

# Interracial News Service

A DIGEST OF TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RELATIONS

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## BROTHERLINESS, WHEREVER IT EXISTS, FLOWS ACROSS ALL GROUP, NATIONAL AND RACIAL BOUNDARIES.

R. B. Montgomery.

### EDUCATION

#### Fellowships

Twenty-five Negroes were included among the 53 Opportunity fellowship recipients announced last week by the John Hay Whitney foundation. The Fellowship winners will receive grants for training and study totaling \$100,000. . . .

Among this year's fellows are Negroes, American Indians, Spanish-Americans, Japanese-Americans, displaced persons, and Filipinos. Men and women from Guam, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, the Canal Zone, the District of Columbia and 16 states will be enabled, under these grants, to continue their training or pursue creative work. . . . (*The Chicago Defender*, May 19).

#### Lights and Shadows

Delegates from twenty-three colleges in the New York-New Jersey region of the National Federation of Catholic College students have urged 600,000 Roman Catholic college graduates in the United States to spread social and interracial justice.

Miss Phyllis Grady of Manhattanville College, regional chairman of the federation, announced yesterday the adoption of a resolution by the student groups. . . .

The resolution recommended that "graduates urge their parish sodalities or study groups to devote at least one or two meetings a year to the discussion of interracial principles and problems, propose the organization of interracial study groups within their parishes and join the local Catholic Interracial Council if there is one, or unite with others in organizing a council." . . . (*New York Times*, May 21).

"Student Life," the official newspaper of the Washington University campus (St. Louis, Mo.) has again raised the question of admission of qualified Negro students to all levels of the institution. Several polls have been conducted on the campus among students and faculty members and all showed a majority in favor of Negro

admission. Excerpts from the text of "Student Life" editorial follow:

"It seems totally inconsistent to us that spokesmen of the University should make pronouncements on international understanding and democracy when WU enforces a bar against a certain group of American citizens.

"Qualified observers have declared, in our own Graham Chapel, that segregation and discrimination against Negroes in the United States is a marked detriment to our prestige abroad, especially in the Asiatic countries where we can ill afford to be held up as the enemy of non-whites. WU contributes to the Communist propaganda machine each time that a qualified Negro is denied admission to the undergraduate divisions. . . .

"WU students have expressed their feeling on this issue which clearly has international aspects. Most of them stand ready to accept Negroes into the educational partnership at the University. 'Student Life' is convinced that there would be no 'incidents' resulting from Negro admission." (*Ed. St. Louis Argus*, May 25).

"At the 1950 meeting of the trustees (Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky) a committee of trusted brethren was appointed to make a careful study and to report their recommendations. The resolution presented and passed, after thoughtful discussion and some amendment, reads as follows:

Since legal barriers have been removed and because of the urgent need of adequate seminary training in the South for Negro Baptist students who are at present deprived of proper theological education, beginning with the session 1951-52 carefully selected Negroes will be admitted on the following basis: Negro men who are candidates for the B.D., Th.M., or Th.D. and who hold as prerequisite the B.A. degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university, will be admitted to classes, library, and all academic rights and privileges.

" . . . The students, having been canvassed, expressed their almost universal desire to have these students brought into

their classes. Southwestern Seminary at Fort Worth and the New Orleans Seminary had already taken similar action." (*The Tie*, April, 1951).

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Four Negroes have appealed to the United States Supreme Court a Federal ruling that permitted them to enter the University of Tennessee but that did not enjoin the university from refusing to admit Negroes.

Federal Judge Robert L. Taylor held on April 20 that the four were entitled to admission to the university's law and graduate schools. . . .

The petitioners, who charged that the state had not provided educational facilities elsewhere for them to take the desired courses, are Joseph M. Patterson, Lincoln Blakeney, Gene Mitchell Gray and Jack Alexander, all of Knoxville, Tenn. (*New York Times*, May 9).

Edward O. Diggs, of Winston-Salem, N. C., today became the first Negro to be accepted for admission to the University of North Carolina.

He was accepted "as competitively qualified" for the University's medical school for the class beginning next September. Mr. Diggs now is completing a pre-medical course at the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College at Greensboro. (*New York Times*, April 25).

Dean Henry P. Brandis of the University of North Carolina Law School announced today that three Negroes had been accepted for the summer term. They will be the first Negro students to enter the 156-year-old institution.

They are Harvey E. Beech of Durham, J. Kenneth Lee of Greensboro, and Floyd B. McKissick of Asheville. All are students now at North Carolina College in Durham, a Negro institution.

Two of the students admitted were among the four who carried a suit seeking admission to the university law school to the United States Supreme Court. The court Monday refused to review the deci-

The matter in these pages is presented for the reader's information. It is not to be construed as reflecting the attitudes of the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations or of The National Council of Churches.



sion of the Circuit Court of Appeals stating that Negroes must be admitted to the university. (*New York Times*, June 8).

The admission of five students to the University of Florida was blocked last week when the State Supreme court refused to order the University to enroll them.

The court agreed with attorneys for the state that the students could enroll for the course they desired at the Jim Crow A. & M. college in Tallahassee.

The judges agreed to reconsider the case at any time the plaintiffs "feel they have further evidence of discrimination." (*The Chicago Defender*, June 23).

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Local Government

Nashville (Tenn.) got its second Negro city councilman last week when Atty. Robert Lillard, a retired fireman, topped incumbent Councilman Charles Castleman by a margin of 129 votes in a run-off election.

Atty. Z. Alexander Looby won a council seat in May 10 municipal election. . . . Forty years have lapsed since Negroes have served on Nashville's city Council. (*The Chicago Defender*, June 9).

Rev. Kenneth Williams, first Negro to win a city council seat in Winston-Salem, N. C., and who several weeks ago received an award from the Freedoms Foundation for fighting Communism in his city, is named "Outstanding Negro Citizen of the Year" by the Winston-Salem Junior Chamber of Commerce. Presentation was made by Mayor Marshall Kurfess in Fries auditorium of Winston-Salem Teachers College, where Rev. Williams is a professor of religion and history. He is pastor of West End Baptist Church. (*The Chicago Defender*, May 26).

Dr. William Hampton, outstanding physician and civic leader here (Greensboro, N. C.) and a native of New Jersey, this month won the distinction of being the first of his race ever to be elected a member of the local city council. . . .

Dr. Hampton is now secretary of the medical staff at Richardson Hospital. . . . In civic and church affairs, Dr. Hampton is also a leader. At present, he is president of the Greensboro Men's Club, the Greensboro Citizens Association, a member of Phi Beta Sigma and chairman of the board of stewards of St. Matthews Methodist Church. (*Afro-American*, May 26).

John B. King, a Brooklyn, N. Y. school principal, was unanimously elected as an assistant superintendent of schools for New York last Wednesday, becoming the highest position ever held by a colored man in the school system here.

Mr. King, a native New Yorker, has been principal of PS 25 in Brooklyn where he has served since December 1949. . . .

In making the appointment Dr. William Jansen, superintendent of schools said:

"Without any hesitation or mental reservation whatever, I can say that Mr. King is one of the outstanding educational leaders in our school system."

Mr. King earned his M.A. degree at New York University and is now working there on his Ph.D. (*Afro-American*, May 19).

### In Other Areas

Dr. Walter G. Daniel, professor of education at Howard University (Washington, D. C.) has been appointed a specialist for higher education in the Office of Education, Federal Security Agency, Dr. Earl James McGrath, United States Commissioner of Education, announced Monday.

Dr. Daniel will work with John Dale Russell, Assistant Commissioner for Higher Education. (*Kansas City Call*, June 8).

The Philadelphia Divinity School, Episcopal Church institution, announces the election to its Board of Trustees of the Rev. Tollie L. Caution, D.D., the first Negro ever elected to that office.

Dr. Caution is secretary for Negro work at the national headquarters of the Episcopal Church in New York City, an office which he has held since 1945. . . .

The Philadelphia Divinity School has on its faculty one distinguished member of the Negro race, the Rev. Edgar C. Young, D.D., Th.D., S.D.T., who is professor of Biblical Literature. (*Pittsburgh Courier*, June 23).

Chairman Seymour H. Knox of the University of Buffalo, Buffalo, N. Y., and Chancellor T. Raymond McConnell have announced the election by the graduates of that school throughout the world had as their representative to the board of trustees Leeland N. Jones, Jr., 29-year-old supervisor of Buffalo's Fifth Ward. . . .

Mr. Jones is the first colored graduate in the 105-year history of the 11,000-student university to serve on this university council. . . .

The University of Buffalo, noted for its liberal tradition, has at least three Negroes on its faculty including Dr. Yerby Jones in the Medical School and Dr. Helen Burrell, professor of romance languages. . . . (*Pittsburgh Courier*, June 15).

Harold A. Stevens, the first Negro to be elected to a judgeship of General Sessions Court in the State of New York, recently received a doctor's of law degree from Boston University, from which he graduated in 1936. He is a native of South Carolina. (*Chicago Defender*, June 16).

Mrs. Ruth Whitehead Whaley, attorney, became secretary of the Board of Estimate here (New York City) Thursday when that body confirmed her appointment by a unanimous vote at City Hall. . . .

Mrs. Whaley was the first non-white woman to practice law in New York State and the second woman to be admitted to the bar of the state. . . . (*Afro-American*, June 2).

Dr. Mildred Fay Jefferson is the first Negro woman to be graduated from Harvard Medical School. She is the daughter of Army Capt. and Mrs. Milard F. Jefferson of Boston. She was born in Texas and received her A.B. degree from Texas College and her Master of Science degree from Tufts. (*New York Times*, June 24).

The Spingarn Medal, presented annually for the highest achievement of an American Negro, was awarded to Mrs. Mabel Keaton Staupers of New York for "spearheading the successful movement to integrate Negro nurses into American life as equals." . . .

For thirty years, Mrs. Staupers has been active against racial discrimination in the training and employment of Negro nurses. She was largely responsible for bringing about the commissioning of Negro nurses in the armed services in World War II.

Mrs. Staupers served as executive secretary and president of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, and last winter she was instrumental in dissolving the association because it had achieved the democratic aims to which it had been dedicated. . . . (*New York Times*, June 30).

Lester B. Granger, of New York City made top-flight news history when he was elected last Wednesday as the first Negro president of the National Conference of Social Work, during the seventy-eighth annual meeting of this group which comprises at least 75,000 national and international members of various racial and religious groups.

The significance of this action on the part of the conference was keenly felt not only by his associates with whom he had worked as executive director of the National Urban League since 1941, but in other fields of civic endeavor. . . . (*Pittsburgh Courier*, May 26).

Mrs. Ruth Williams, mother of a 17-year-old daughter, today became Democratic Governor Paul A. Dever's (Mass.) private secretary — the first Negro to hold that post in the recollection of State House veterans. . . .

Mrs. Williams has been 10 years in the State service. During the administrations of Republican Governors Leverett Saltonstall and Robert F. Bradford she was in



the division of civil service. Since the Dever administration took office she has been in the office of Louis Hern, Governor Dever's press secretary. (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, June 12).

## THE CHURCHES

### American Baptists in Session

The American Baptist Convention (at Buffalo, N. Y., June 14) put its approval on fair employment practice legislation at both the state and national level, but not without an argument.

Delegates to the convention's forty-fourth annual meeting approved a resolution declaring that "we favor the passage of Federal and state F.E.P.C. legislation" and resolving "that we continue our educational program for the elimination of prejudice and injustice in this field." (*New York Herald-Tribune*, June 15).

Dr. Benjamin Mays, prominent Negro educator, told the American Baptist Convention . . . that Protestant churches throughout the country should "take a daring step" and throw their doors "wide open" to Negro worshippers.

He asserted that in the North the churches were "more segregated than the public school, the public library, the theatre, and certainly more segregated than the New York subway."

Dr. Mays is the president of Morehouse College in Atlanta and a former vice-president of the Federal Council of Churches, which last November became part of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. . . . (*The New York Times*, June 15).

### Senedecor Memorial Synod

The 91st Assembly of the Presbyterian Church U.S., held in the First Presbyterian Church, Orlando, Fla., June 7 to 12 . . . voted "to take steps toward dissolving the Senedecor Memorial Synod and to receive its churches into the white Presbyteries. A commission appointed by the moderator is to act in the matter after the wishes of the several synods that are involved have been ascertained." . . . (*Christian Observer*, June 27).

The recommendation calling for this action was part of the report of the Board of Church Extension.

### United Presbyterian General Assembly

At its General Assembly here (Des Moines) May 23-28, the United Presbyterian Church . . . (through) the denomination's Board of American Missions reported that its former work with Negroes has been transferred from a separate department to the presbyteries, thus removing the last semblance of segregation. (*The Christian Century*, June 27).

### Everyone Welcome

"Everyone Welcome" is the title of a pamphlet giving excerpts from the report

of the Institute on Racial and Cultural Relations, prepared by William H. McConaghy and Jesse Belmont Barber.

Dr. William H. McConaghy, former director of the Institute, made this report to the 163rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, USA, at Cincinnati, Ohio, May 30, 1951.

In the report it is stated:

The Institute on Racial and Cultural Relations terminated its work early in 1951, but the program is being continued in the Division of Social Education and Action of the Board of Christian Education.

The focus of the study has been the Presbyterian Church. The goal, as approved by the General Assembly, was 'a nonsegregated church in a nonsegregated society.' This goal continues to be the ultimate objective of our Church's continued emphasis upon racial and cultural relations.

The pamphlet will be enlarged into a "Handbook on Racial and Cultural Relations" which will be published by the Division of Social Education and Action (Presbyterian USA) in the fall.

### Methodists and the Central Jurisdiction

Reporting on the results of a recent survey conducted by the Social Service Committee of the N. Y. East Conference of the Methodist Church, the Chairman, Charles B. Hart, makes some accurate observations about the Methodists and the Central Jurisdiction.

The observations made by Mr. Hart are: . . . "One, is that there is deep and widespread interest in this issue.

"A second observation is that the present situation in our church is not settled nor stabilized by the presence of the Central Jurisdiction. . . .

"A third observation is that nearly all of the Negro Methodists replying to the questionnaire do not want things to remain as they are. People who have been saying that our Negro brethren want the Central Jurisdiction are unaware of the true feelings of these people. No point is more striking and clear from this survey than that the vast majority of our Negro churchmen replying want an end now to the Central Jurisdiction." . . . (*Zions Herald*, May 30, June 6).

### Council of Churches

"Christian Cooperation in Buffalo — A Study of a Successful Council of Churches," is the title of an article appearing in the June 13 issue of *The Christian Century*. The article states, in part:

"Buffalo is a city of tensions. Almost every institution in this community of 577,000 feels the interplay of complex social, economic and religious forces. . . .

"This situation demands clear thinking and corporate action by the Protestant churches. . . .

"Any council of churches has to be tailored to fit the needs of the local situation. It must operate in the community as it is, but always with a consciousness that

the council can help shape the character of the community that is to be. The Buffalo council is attempting to meet the needs of the Buffalo churches (1) for better and more widespread Christian education; (2) for a united approach in reaching the unchurched; (3) for relating Protestant churches to community and social agencies; (4) for a common Protestant voice on social and community issues; (5) for a reconciling influence among Protestants; (6) for the creation in the Protestant community of a consciousness that it is integrally and responsibly related to all of Christendom; and (7) for interfaith cooperation. . . .

"The council's department of public affairs is well organized. Its four committees — civic, economic, international, interracial — are representatively constituted and are headed by responsible community leaders. The department studies most of the important issues confronting Buffalonians. After arriving at a conclusion on any matter it decides on the strategy to be followed. Sometimes it recommends that the council of churches issue a public statement. Often it elects to make its influence felt through quiet conferences with community leaders. There are times when this latter method is effective. At other times the mobilization of Protestant opinion requires public presentation and discussion. All too many Buffalo Protestants are unaware of what the council is saying about controversial community issues. . . ."

The staff of the Buffalo Council of Churches, under the able leadership of the Executive Secretary, Dr. Harlan M. Frost, is composed of the following persons: Mrs. Fred H. White, Executive Secretary of the Council of Church Women; the Rev. Ralph M. Carmichael, Director of Religious Education; Mr. Robert M. Brill, Director of Social Service; Mrs. Mildred Taylor, Assistant to the Director of Social Service; the Rev. George E. Crandall, Director of the Department of College Work. The Rev. Ralph W. Loew, pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, serves as President of the Council.

### Co-Pastors of Local Church

C. Shelby Rooks, a Negro, and the Rev. Paul Kimmel will become co-pastors of the Shanks Village Protestant Church in Inter Faith Chapel . . . on Sept. 1 as the result of an election held last night and announced at the church services today.

Mr. Rooks, a senior at Union Theological Seminary, will be ordained as a Baptist minister in September. His father is the Rev. Shelby Rooks, pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church, at 141st Street and St. Nicholas Avenue, New York, one of the largest of its denomination in the country.

Mr. Rooks is a Virginian who was graduated from Virginia State College in



1949 after serving three years in the Army Medical Corps in the Pacific area. This is the first time the church has had co-pastors. Mr. Kimmel also is a senior at Union Theological Seminary and is now in Pittsburgh. Both new pastors are residents of Shanks Village. (*The New York Times*, July 9).

## INTERRACIAL WORK CAMPS

### Unitarian Service Committee

"An interracial group of five boys and five girls of high school age from New England, the Middle West and Canada has arrived at the Red Shield Club of the Salvation Army, 216 West 124th Street, and started renovating an adjoining private dwelling to provide space for increased community services. The project is a work camp under the auspices of the Unitarian Service Committee.

### World Council of Churches

"Another Harlem work camp is that under the auspices of the World Council of Churches, which was opened last year in the East Harlem Protestant Parish. This year a playground in 100th Street has been improved by seventeen students, half of whom are high school age and the others of college age. They are working under college-trained leaders preparing for a new survey of Harlem's housing conditions and the production of a play dramatizing the problems arising from narcotics addiction." (*The New York Times*, July 7).

## WHAT'S AHEAD IN AFRICA

The Association Press announces the publication of "Africa, Continent of the Future," by Dr. George Edmund Haynes, who served as Executive Secretary of the Department of Race Relations of the Federal Council of Churches for more than 25 years. Since his retirement he has made a second visit to Africa for the purpose of conducting interviews and gathering material to be included in this volume. The volume is a documented 532-page guide to the economic, political, cultural, educational, social and religious conditions in East, Central and West Africa. Dr. Haynes helps us to see the role that this Continent, its people and its resources can and will play in the world, and in the struggle of ideas.

"Africa, Continent of the Future," sells for \$3.50, and can be secured directly from the Association Press, 291 Broadway, New York, or your nearby bookstore.

## SEGREGATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Charleston, S. C., June 23. A special three-judge federal court Saturday upheld Negro segregation in the South's schools. But it reminded Southern states that they must provide equal facilities for Negroes.

The court, in a far-reaching 2 to 1 decision, held that "segregation of the races in the public schools . . . is a matter of legislative policy for the several states, with which the federal courts are powerless to interfere."

But the court ordered Negro schools made equal to those for whites and told school officials to report back within six months on what they are doing about it. . . .

The court majority, consisting of Circuit Judge John J. Parker and District Judge George Timmerman, wrote that "in a country with a great expanse of territory with peoples of widely differing customs and ideals, local self government in local matters is essential to the peace and happiness of the people in the several communities as well as to the strength and unity of the country as a whole."

District Judge J. Waities Waring, the jurist who opened South Carolina's Democratic Party primaries to Negroes, took a far different view in his dissenting opinion. He wrote:

"There is no longer any basis for a state to claim the power to separate according to race in graduate schools, universities and colleges. . . . I am of the opinion that all of the legal guide posts, expert testimony, common sense and reason point unerringly to the conclusion that the system of segregation in education adopted and practiced in the State of South Carolina must go and must go now." . . .

James M. Hinton, president of the South Carolina chapter of the NAACP expressed optimism that the Supreme Court would reverse the lower court.

The special three-judge court heard the case so that it could be appealed directly to the Supreme Court.

The court held that the state constitution does not violate the 14th Amendment. But it added that educational facili-

ties for Negroes in Clarendon School District No. 22 "are not substantially equal to those afforded for white pupils (and) that this inequality is violative of the equal protective clause of the 14th Amendment."

The court, in its decree, then ordered Clarendon trustees to equalize their facilities for both races. It further ordered them to report back within six months "as to the action taken by them to carry out this order." . . . (*The Atlanta Journal* and *The Atlanta Constitution*, June 24).

## RACIAL AND CULTURAL INSTITUTES

Three Institutes will be held in July and August. They will be at Lincoln University, Pa., July 23-27; Eden Seminary, Webster Groves, Mo., August 6-10; Menucha Conference Grounds, near Portland, Oregon, August 20-24.

Denominational leaders work with the Interdenominational Committee on Co-operative Work in Racial and Cultural Relations, of which Dr. J. Oscar Lee is chairman, in the planning and promotion of these Institutes.

Rev. William H. McConaghy, minister of the First Presbyterian Church, Syracuse, N. Y., will be Dean of the Institute at Lincoln University. Rev. Galen R. Weaver, of the Race Relations Department of the American Missionary Association of the Congregational Christian Churches, will serve as Dean of the Institute at Eden Seminary. Miss Thelma Stevens, Executive Secretary of the Department of Christian Social Relations of the Women's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church, will be Dean of the Menucha Institute.

Those interested in attending the Institutes should write to the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations for information about registration.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE  
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